

*LTC Andrew P. Poppas – Biography (as of 07 July 07)*

Lieutenant Colonel Andrew P. Poppas was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Infantry from the United States Military Academy in 1988.

Following the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Airborne, Ranger, and Air Assault training he was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Regiment where he served as a rifle platoon leader and company executive officer.

In January 1993 and following the Infantry Officer Advanced Course, he was assigned to the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment where he served as an assistant Brigade S4 and the Brigade S4 prior to assuming command of B Company, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. After line command he assumed command of the 82nd Airborne Division's Advanced Airborne School.

He next attended the Defense Language Institute, Monterey, CA, followed by a tour at the Hellenic War College in Thessaloniki, Greece. Upon his return from Greece, LTC Poppas attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he also earned a Master of Science in Education from Kansas State University. Subsequently, he returned to the 82nd Airborne Division serving as the S-3 for 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment and then as the Brigade S3 for the 504th PIR.

LTC Poppas reported to the Operations Directorate of the Joint Staff in June 2002 at the Pentagon, Washington DC. He served as an operations officer for the Special Operations Division and Anti-terrorism / Homeland Defense Directorate until May 2005.

In June 2005, LTC Poppas returned to Fort Bragg and assumed command of 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. In August 2005, he deployed his battalion to New Orleans, Louisiana as part of the Hurricane Katrina/Rita relief effort. Upon return, he was selected to build the first and second reconnaissance squadrons for the 82nd Airborne Division. In January 2006, 3rd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment was officially reflagged as the 5th Squadron, 73rd Cavalry and 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry during the 82nd Airborne Division's Transformation. Following an Intensive Training Cycle and JRTC Rotation, LTC Poppas deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in August 2006.

His awards, decorations and badges include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with Valor, Army Commendation Medal (4 OLC), Army Achievement Medal (1 OLC), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal (1 OLC), Iraqi Campaign Medal, War On Terror Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Joint Chief of Staff Identification Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Ranger Tab.